

# Vital Statistics Report Lancaster County, Nebraska 1997

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# **INTRODUCTION**

This is the twentieth annual Lancaster County Vital Statistics Report published by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. This report contains vital statistics data for the 1997 calendar year. In addition to birth and death statistics, this report contains 1997 marriage and divorce data for Lancaster County. Information contained in this report was compiled from the vital records of the State of Nebraska and furnished to Lancaster County by the Section of Data Management, Nebraska Health and Human Services System.

Historical data, Year 2000 Objectives, and data for Nebraska have been used where relevant to show trends and comparisons. Birth and mortality rates are calculated using population estimates from the U.S. Census. The 1997 population of Lancaster County was estimated at 233,319.

Data provided by the Nebraska Birth Defects Registry were used to examine trends of congenital anomalies and their distribution by age and race of the mother. The Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9) was used in classifying the causes of death.

Appreciation is expressed to the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, Section of Data Management for providing the data upon which this report is based.



# **BIRTH STATISTICS**



## BIRTH RATE

In 1997, the crude birth rate for Lancaster County was 13.8 per 1000 population. This represents an absolute decrease of 0.7 per 1000 from 1987 to 1997. The 1997 crude birth rate for Nebraska was 14.3 per 1000 population.

Figure 1 illustrates the birth rate trends for Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska from 1980 to 1997.

## FERTILITY RATE

The Lancaster County fertility rate (births per 1000 women age 15 to 44) for 1997 was 52.9. This data indicates a decline in the fertility rate in Lancaster County over the period from 1981 to 1997, although since 1988, the fertility rate has been inconsistent (Figure 2).

## TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS

A total of 3223 live births were recorded among Lancaster County women in 1997. This number is consistent with the gradual increase in annual births that has occurred since 1988, when 2968 births occurred (Figure 1).

Lincoln residents represented 93.6% of all live births, with 6.4% distributed among Lancaster County residents outside Lincoln city limits. The most frequent month of birth was July (Table 1).

## Sex of Child

Of the 3223 total live births, 1630, or 50.6%, were males and 1593, or 49.4%, were females.

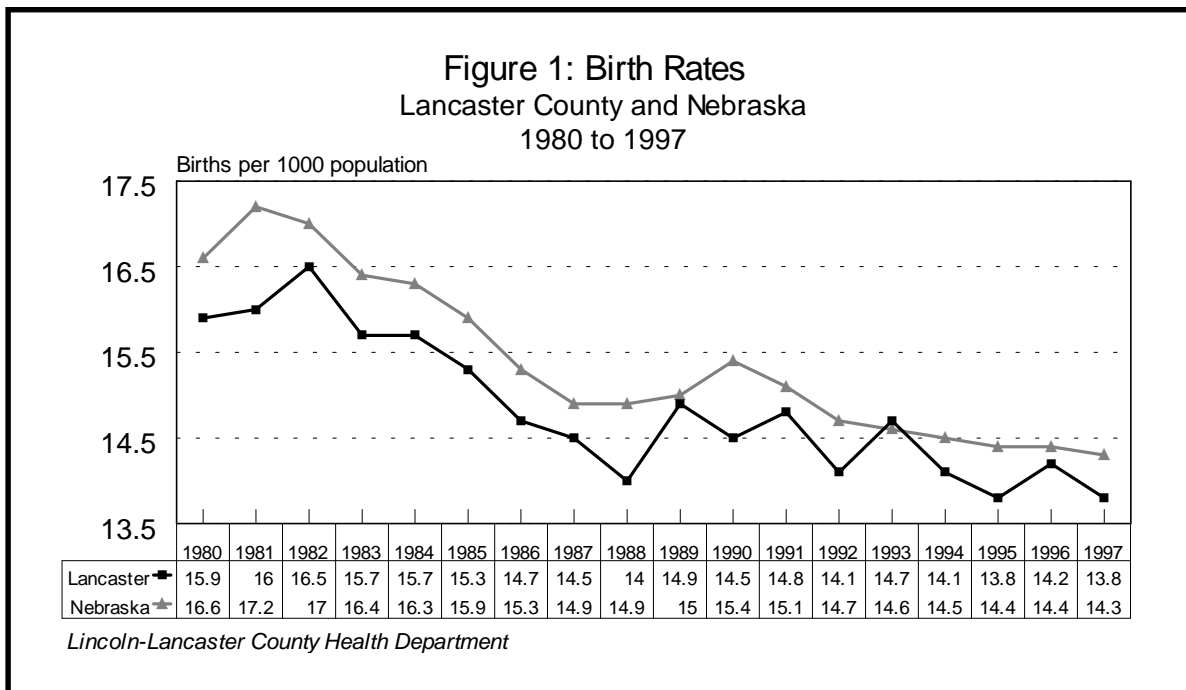
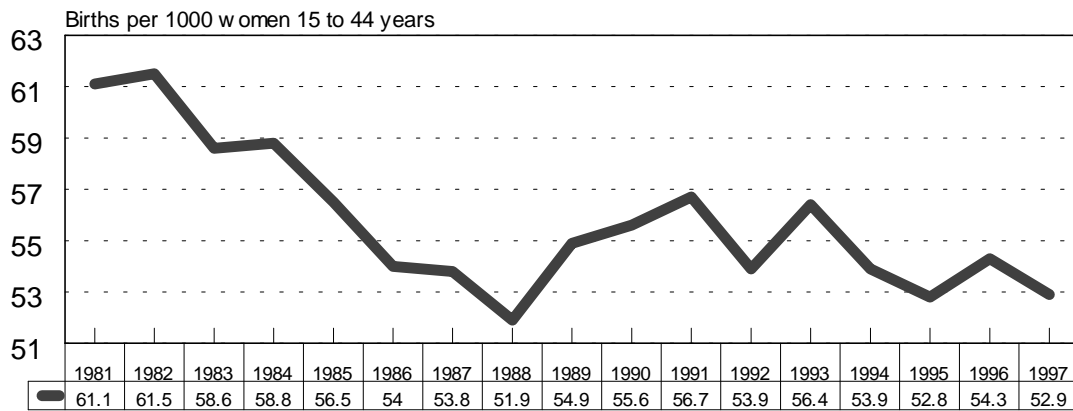


Figure 2: Fertility Rate  
Lancaster County, NE, 1981-1997



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## RACE/ETHNIC ORIGIN

In 1997, 89.2% of all births were White, 3.6% were Black, 1.8% were American Indian and 5.2% were Asian. Latinos represented 4.0% of all births. (Table 2)

The percentage of all Lancaster County births which are of minority race or Latino ethnicity has nearly doubled during the past decade, increasing from 8.3% of all births in 1987 to 14.6% in 1997.

TABLE 1.  
Births by Month  
Lancaster County, 1997

<u>Month</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	248	7.7
February	244	7.6
March	272	8.4
April	265	8.2
May	273	8.5
June	286	8.9
July	300	9.3
August	274	8.5
September	253	7.8
October	264	8.2
November	258	8.0
December	286	8.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**TABLE 2.**  
**Births by Race and Ethnic Origin**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<u>RACE</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
White	2874	89.2
Black	117	3.6
Am. Indian	57	1.8
Asian	166	5.2
Unknown/Other	9	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Latino**	129	4.0

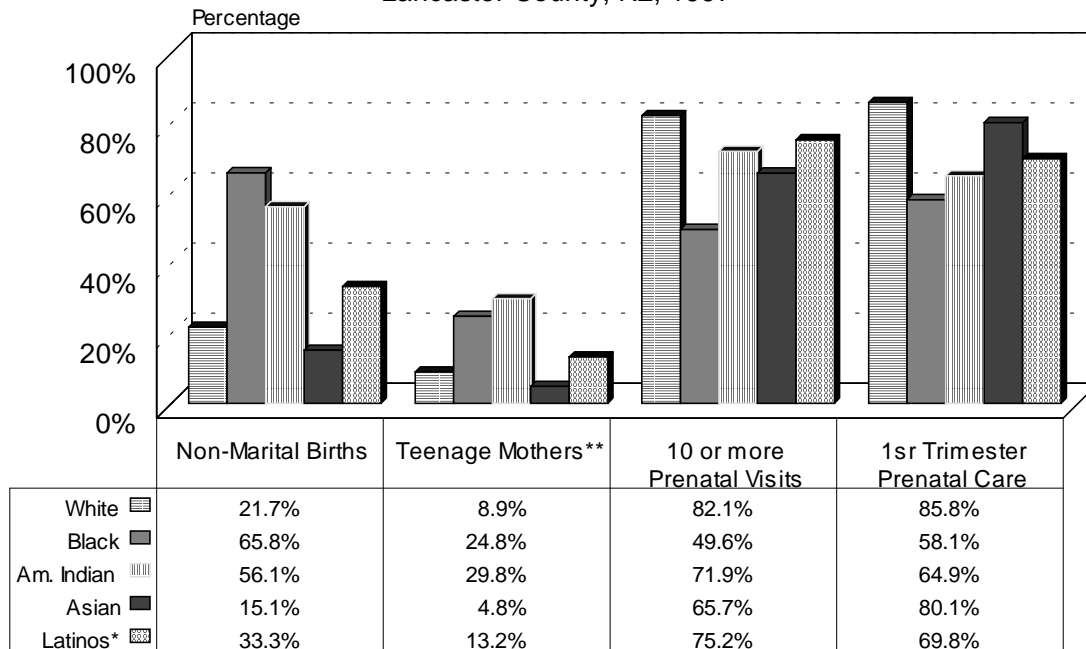
\* Race of child determined by race of mother.

\*\* Latinos may be of any race.

State of Nebraska birth statistics identify the race of birthed children solely upon the race of the mother. For comparison purposes, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department also defines the race of the child by the race of the mother for purposes of birth statistics. This is consistent with current statistical practices throughout the nation. The Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department considers Latino origin separately from race. This distinction also allows for better comparison with state and national data.

Figure 3 illustrates non-marital and teenage birth statistics by race of mother. The graph also illustrates variation by race in the percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester and those who had ten or more prenatal visits during a pregnancy. Each of these issues will be discussed under their respective subject headings.

**Figure 3: Comparison of Birth Statistics by Race and Ethnic Origin**  
**Lancaster County, NE, 1997**



\*Latinos may be of any race

\*\*Under 20 years of age.

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**TABLE 3.**  
**Comparison of Resident Birth Statistics**  
**by Race and Ethnic Origin**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

	WHITE	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	ALL OTHER	TOTAL	<i>*Latino</i>
<b>NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS**</b>							
Male	1445	60	28	92	5	1630	65
Female	1429	57	29	74	4	1593	64
Total	2874	117	57	166	9	3223	129
<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS</b>	89.2	3.6	1.8	5.2	0.3	100.0	4.0
<b>BIRTHWEIGHT</b>							
Mean Birth Weight (lbs./ozs.)	7/7	6/11	7/11	6/15	7/6	7/7	7/7
Percentage of Births Low-Weight	7.1	13.7	10.5	9.0	---	7.5	4.7
<b>PRENATAL CARE</b>							
10 or More Prenatal Visits (%)	82.0	49.6	71.9	65.7	77.8	79.8	75.2
Receiving Care in First Trimester (%)	85.8	58.1	64.9	73.5	83.8	83.8	69.8
<b>AGE OF MOTHER</b>							
<b>Percent of Mothers by Age:</b>							
Under 20	8.9	24.8	29.8	4.8	22.2	9.6	13.2
20 - 24	21.1	26.5	31.6	24.7	22.2	21.6	36.4
25 - 29	32.3	27.4	21.1	47.0	44.4	32.7	24.0
30 & Over	37.8	21.4	17.5	23.5	11.1	36.0	26.4
<b>NON-MARITAL BIRTHS</b>							
Number	624	77	32	25	5	763	43
Non-Marital Births by Race (%)	21.7	65.8	56.1	15.1	55.6	23.7	33.3
Overall Share of Non-Marital Births (%)	81.8	10.1	4.2	3.3	0.7	100.0	5.6

**NOTE:** *Statistics are based on the race of the mother.*

**\*Latinos may be of any race.**

**\*\*One birth race was unknown.**

## BIRTH WEIGHT

In 1997, the mean birth weight was 7 lbs. 7 ozs. The mean birth weight has remained fairly stable for the past 15 years. Table 4 lists the frequency of births by weight of child. Nearly 80% of all children weighed between 6 lbs. and 8 lbs. 15 ozs at birth.

### Race and Ethnic Origin of Child

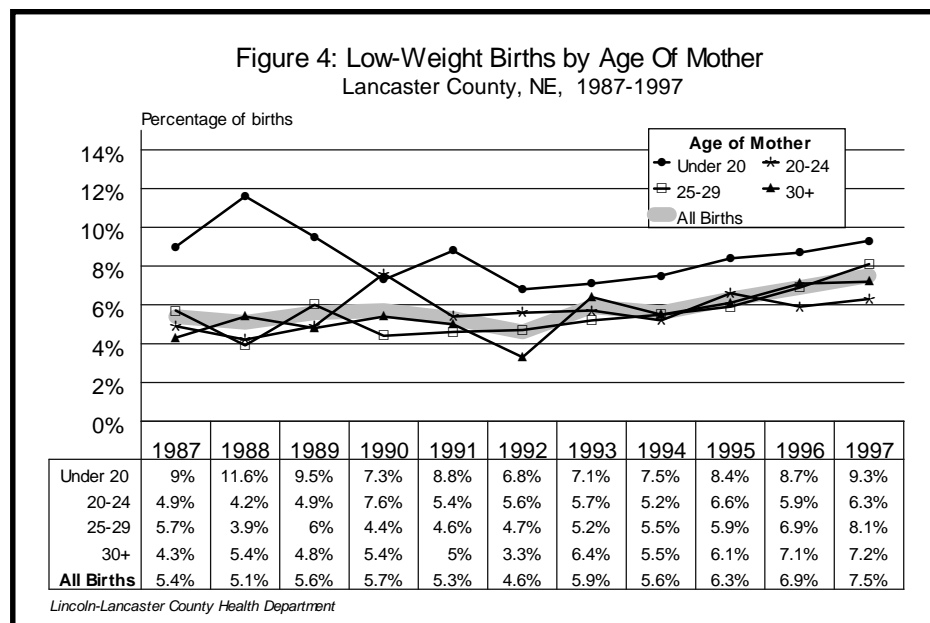
The mean birth weight for Whites was 7 lbs. 7 ozs. This compares to 6 lbs. 11 oz. for Blacks, 7 lbs. 11 ozs. for American Indians, 6lbs. 15 ozs. for Asians and 7 lbs. 7 ozs. for Latinos.

**TABLE 4.**  
**Births by Weight of Child**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Weight of Child</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1 lb. & Under	3	0.1
1 lb. 1 oz. - 2 lbs.	17	0.5
2 lbs. 1 oz. - 3 lbs. 8 ozs.	37	1.1
3 lbs. 9 ozs. - 4 lbs. 8 ozs.	59	1.8
4 lbs. 9 ozs. - 5 lbs. 8 ozs.	126	3.9
5 lbs. 9 ozs. - 5 lbs. 15 ozs.	109	3.4
6 lbs. - 6 lbs. 15 ozs.	664	20.6
7 lbs. - 7 lbs. 15 ozs.	1094	33.9
8 lbs. - 8 lbs. 15 ozs.	790	24.5
9 lbs. - 9 lbs. 15 ozs.	276	8.6
10 lbs. - 10 lbs. 15 ozs.	40	1.2
11 lbs. & Over	8	0.2
<b>TOTAL BIRTHS</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## LOW BIRTH WEIGHT

There were 242 low birth weight babies (5 lbs. 8 ozs. or less) born in 1997, accounting for 7.5% of all live births. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2000 is to reduce this percentage to 4.7%. However, the low birth weight rate began to increase after 1992, which at the time was a new low following a decade of little change. In 1997 this increasing trend has continued, with a new high of 7.5% of births being of low birth weight (Figure 4).



### Marital Status

Among married women, 7.2% (178 of 2460) had low birth weight babies, compared to 8.4% (64 of 763) among unmarried women (Table 5).

<b>TABLE 5.</b> <b>Low-Weight Births by Marital Status</b> <b>Lancaster County, 1997</b>				
	<i><b>MARRIED</b></i>		<i><b>UNMARRIED</b></i>	
<b>Weight of Child</b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
5 lbs 8 ozs and Under	178	7.2	64	8.4
Over 5 lbs 8 ozs	2282	92.8	699	91.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Age of Mother

Although teenage mothers bore 9.6% of all babies in 1997, 12.0% of all low birth weight babies occurred among this age group (Table 6). However, teenage mothers were only slightly more likely to have a low birth weight baby (9.3%) compared to other age groups (7.3%).

Among mothers under 20 years of age, the percentage of births categorized as low birth weight declined from 11.6% in 1988 to 9.3% in 1997. As a result, the percentage of low birth weight births increased among older mothers.

<b>TABLE 6.</b> <b>Low-Weight Births by Age of Mother</b> <b>Lancaster County, 1997</b>				
<b><u>Age of Mother</u></b>	<b><u>Total Live Births</u></b>	<b><u>Low Weight Births</u></b>	<b><u>% of Low Weight by Age-Group**</u></b>	<b><u>% of Age Group Low Weight***</u></b>
Under 20	311	29	12.0	9.3
20 - 24	697	44	18.2	6.3
25 - 29	1054	85	35.1	8.1
30 & Over	1161	84	34.7	7.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>

**\*\* Percentages in this column reflect low-weight births by age-group.**  
**\*\*\* Percentages in this column reflect births within the age-group that were low-weight.**

## Race and Ethnic Origin of Child

In 1997, low birth weight births comprised 7.1% of White births, 13.7% of Black births, 10.5% of American Indian births, 9.0% of Asian births and 4.7% of Latino births.

Sustained increases in low birth weight have been noticeable for White and Black infants only. From 1988 to 1997, low birth weight increased from 4.8% to 7.1% for White infants, and from 9.8% to 13.7% for Black infants.

## Alcohol Use

In 1997, 48 (1.5%) Lancaster County births were to mothers who reported the consumption of alcohol at least once during pregnancy. This is consistent with reported consumption in 1996 (1.5%). Mothers who reported consuming alcohol during pregnancy drank an average of 1.4 drinks per week. Mothers who reported consuming alcohol were more likely to have low birth weight babies (12.5%, Figure 5) than mothers who did not report consuming alcohol (7.4%). The average birth weight among mothers who reported consuming alcohol was 7 lbs. 3 ozs, compared to 7 lbs. 7 ozs. for non-drinking mothers.

## Tobacco Use

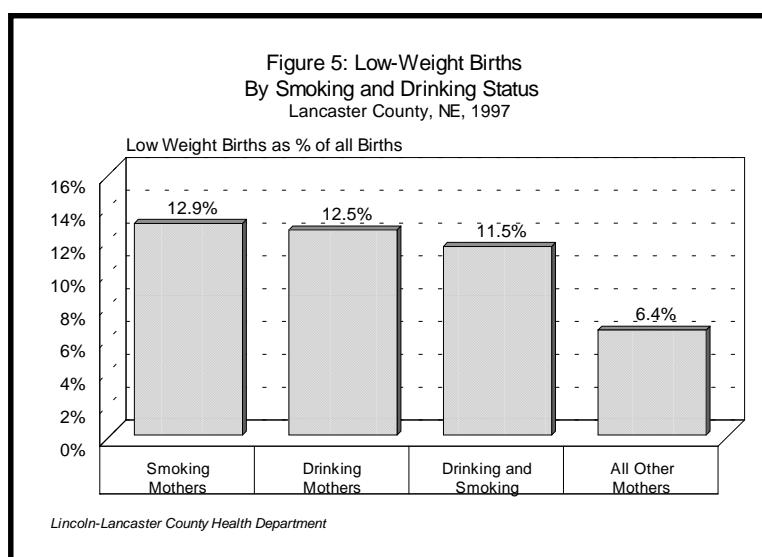
In 1997, 502 (15.6%) births in Lancaster County were to mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy, indicating a decline from 17.3% recorded in 1996. Among mothers who reported smoking

during pregnancy in 1997, an average of 11.0 cigarettes were smoked per day. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2000 is to decrease the percentage of women who smoke during pregnancy to 10.0%.

Among mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy, 12.9% of births were of low weight (Figure 5), compared to 6.5% for mothers who reported not smoking. The average birth weight among mothers who reported smoking 21 or more cigarettes per day was 6 lbs. 3 ozs., compared to 7lbs. 7 ozs. for mothers who did not report smoking 21 or more cigarettes per day.

## Alcohol and Tobacco Use

Twenty-six mothers (0.8%) reported using both alcohol and tobacco during pregnancy. In this group, three births (11.5%) were of low weight, compared to 173 births (6.4%) among mothers who reported not smoking or drinking during pregnancy (Figure 5).



## **BIRTH DEFECTS** **(Congenital Anomalies)**

According to the 1997 Nebraska Birth Defects Registry, there were 168 live births with birth defects in Lancaster County (5.2% of all births). Among these births, the number of defects was 427. Anomalies of the heart (134) were the most common type of defect reported, followed by defects of the musculoskeletal system (66), circulatory system defects (52), and genital organ defects (26) (Table 9).

Males represented 55.4% (93) of children born with these birth defects, and females represented 44.6% (75).

Of the 242 infants born with low birth weight in 1997, 12.0% (29) had birth defects. Among babies who were not of low birth weight, 4.7% (139) had birth defects.

**TABLE 7.**  
**Birth Defects by Race**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Total Births</b>	<b>Number of Births with Defects</b>	<b>Percent of Race Group</b>
White	2874	154	5.4
Other Races	340	13	3.8
Unknown	9	1	11.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>5.2</b>

### **Race of Child**

Among all live births with defects, 91.7% were White, 4.2% were black, 3.6% were Asian, and 0.6% were of unknown race. Of all White births, 5.4% had birth defects, compared to 3.8% of all births among other races (Table 7).

### **Age of Mother**

Birth defects affected 9.3% of babies born to mothers age 35 to 39 years old and 7.0% of babies born to mothers 40 and older. This compares to 4.6% of babies born to mothers of all other ages (Table 8).

**TABLE 8.**  
**Birth Defects by Age of Mother**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Total Births</b>	<b>Frequency of Births With Defects</b>	<b>Percent of Age Group</b>
10 - 14	3	0	0.0
15 - 19	308	10	3.2
20 - 24	697	35	5.0
25 - 29	1054	51	4.8
30 - 34	739	34	4.6
35 - 39	365	34	9.3
40 and Older	57	4	7.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>5.2</b>

**TABLE 9.**  
**Birth Defects by Number and**  
**Rate Per 1000 Live Births**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b><u>Type of Defect</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Rate/1000*</u></b>
ABDOMINAL CAVITY	5	1.6
ANOMALIES OF THE EYE	8	2.5
ANOMALIES OF THE EAR, FACE, NECK	13	4.0
ANOMALIES OF THE HEART	134	41.6
CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM		
Hydrocephalus	1	0.3
Other CNS	10	3.1
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	52	16.1
CLEFT PALATE AND CLEFT LIP	10	3.1
CLUB FOOT	11	3.4
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	7	2.2
DOWN'S SYNDROME	10	3.1
GENITAL ORGANS	26	8.1
METABOLIC BLOOD	2	0.6
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM	66	20.5
MULTIPLE SYSTEMS	3	0.9
OTHER CHROMOSOME	1	0.3
OTHER UPPER ALIMENTARY TRACT	12	3.7
RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	19	5.9
SPINA BIFIDA	2	0.6
SKIN, HAIR AND NAILS	11	3.4
UNSPECIFIED	7	2.2
URINARY SYSTEM	11	3.4
All Other	6	1.9
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFECTS</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>132.5</b>
<b>TOTAL BIRTHS WITH DEFECTS</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>52.1</b>

\*Rate per 1000 live births

Source: Birth Defects Registry, Nebraska Health and Human Services System

# PRENATAL CARE

## Ten or More Prenatal Visits

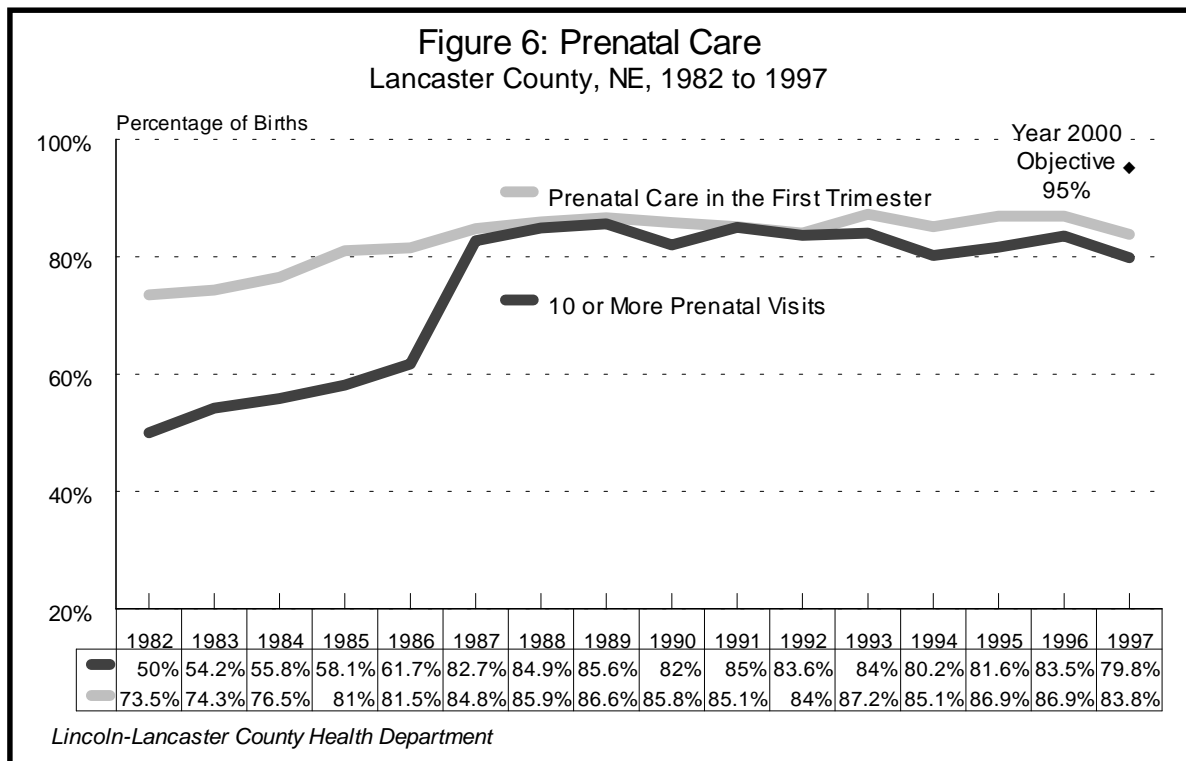
The percentage of mothers known to have had ten or more prenatal visits was 79.8% in 1997 (Figure 6). Through the mid-1980s, there were marked improvements in the percentage of women with ten or more prenatal visits. Since that time, however, the percentage has not improved and has even declined over the past decade (1988 to 1997). Frequency of prenatal visits is shown in Table 10.

## Care in the First Trimester

In 1997, 83.8% of Lancaster County mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy (Figure 6). This is the lowest percentage seen in over a decade. The overall percentage of women receiving prenatal care in

the first trimester has not shown a sustained increase since 1984. The Year 2000 Health Objective for Nebraska and Lancaster County was to increase the percentage of women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester to 95%.

The percentage of mothers receiving first trimester prenatal care has generally been highest among white mothers and lowest among Black and American Indian mothers. The prevalence of first trimester care has shown slight variation among mothers of different racial/ethnic groups over the past five year period (1992 to 1997), although change was not statistically significant. During this period, the percentage of mothers receiving first trimester care appeared to improve among Asian mothers (68.5% in 1992 to 80.1% in 1997) and American Indian mothers (54.5% in 1992 to 64.9% in 1997). Over the same period, an apparent

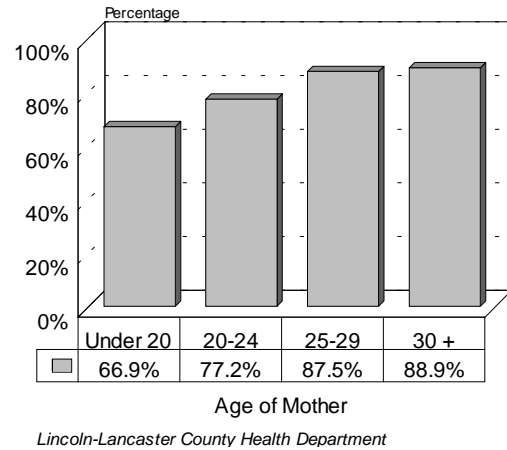




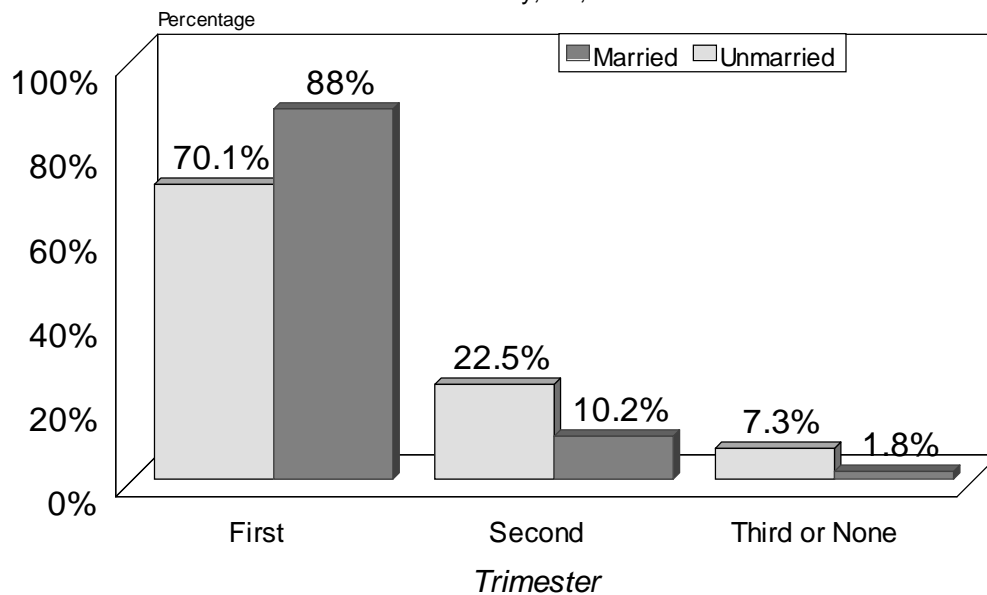
**TABLE 10.**  
**Number of Prenatal Visits**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Number of Visits</b>	<b>Number of Births</b>	<b>Cumulative Number of Births</b>	<b>Cumulative Percentage of Total Births</b>
Unknown	2	2	0.1
None	15	17	0.5
One	4	21	0.7
Two	8	29	0.9
Three	23	52	1.6
Four	26	78	2.4
Five	36	114	3.5
Six	64	178	5.5
Seven	70	248	7.7
Eight	204	452	14.0
Nine	198	650	20.1
Ten and Over	2573	3223	100.0

**Figure 7: Care in First Trimester**  
**By Age of Mother**  
**Lancaster County, NE, 1997**



**Figure 8: Trimester When Prenatal Care Began**  
**Lancaster County, NE, 1997**



decline occurred among Black mothers (62.1% in 1992 to 58.1% in 1997). Both White and Latino mothers showed no change over the period, (85.7% in 1992 to 85.8% in 1997) and (70.3% in 1992 to 69.8% in 1997) respectively.

Older mothers (25 years and older) were more likely to receive care in the first trimester compared to younger mothers (less than 25 years old), 88.2% to 74.0% respectively (Figure 7). Married mothers were more likely to receive care in the first trimester (88.0%) compared to unmarried mothers (70.1%) (Figure 8).

## PARENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The mean age of Lancaster County mothers was 27.5 years in 1997, which is consistent with the mean age seen during the 1990s (Figure 9). For babies for whom the age of both mother and father is known, there is nearly a three year difference in the mean age birth between mothers (27.5 years) and fathers (30.1 years). Lancaster County women 25 years and older have increased their share of the total number of births from 59.6% in 1981 to 68.7% in 1997 (Figure 10).

### Race and Ethnic Origin of Mothers

In 1997, the mean age of mothers was 27.8 years for Whites, 24.8 years for Blacks, 25.9 years for Latinos, 23.7 years for American Indians, and 26.9 for Asians. The mean age of first time mothers was 25.3 years for Whites, 21.2 years for Blacks, 22.5 years for Latinos, 21.3 for American Indians, and 25.0 for Asians.

### Marital Status

The mean age of married mothers was 29.0 years, compared to 22.8 for unmarried mothers. The mean age of unmarried mothers was younger than married mothers among all birth-order categories (Table 11).

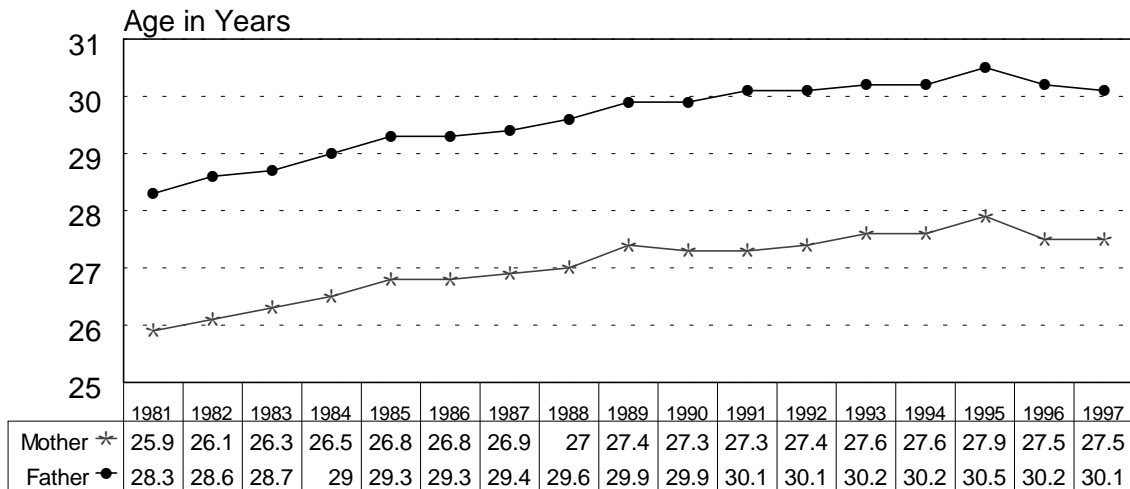
### Education

The most common level of education completed by Lancaster County mothers and fathers was a high school education. The mean education level was one years of college for mothers and two years of college for fathers. For unmarried women, the mean education level was a high school education, versus 2 years of college for married women.

**TABLE 11.**  
**Mean Age of Mother by Birth Order and Marital Status**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

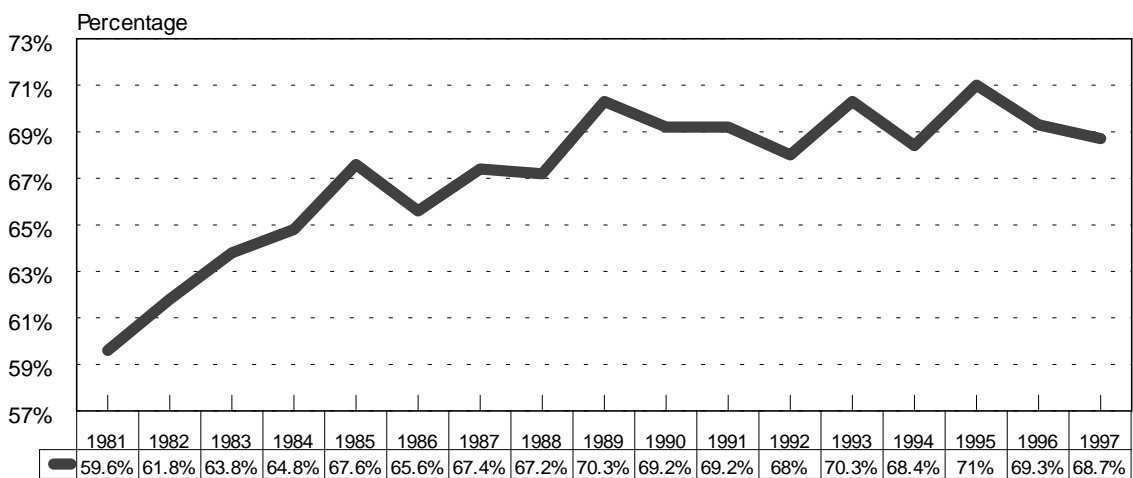
	<u><b>MARRIED</b></u>	<u><b>UNMARRIED</b></u>	<u><b>MEAN AGE</b></u>
First Born	27.2	20.6	25.1
Second Born	29.2	24.0	28.3
Third Born	30.5	27.6	30.1
Fourth Born	32.1	29.4	31.4
<b>ALL BIRTHS</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>27.5</b>

Figure 9: Mean Age of Mother and Father  
Lancaster County, NE, 1981-1997

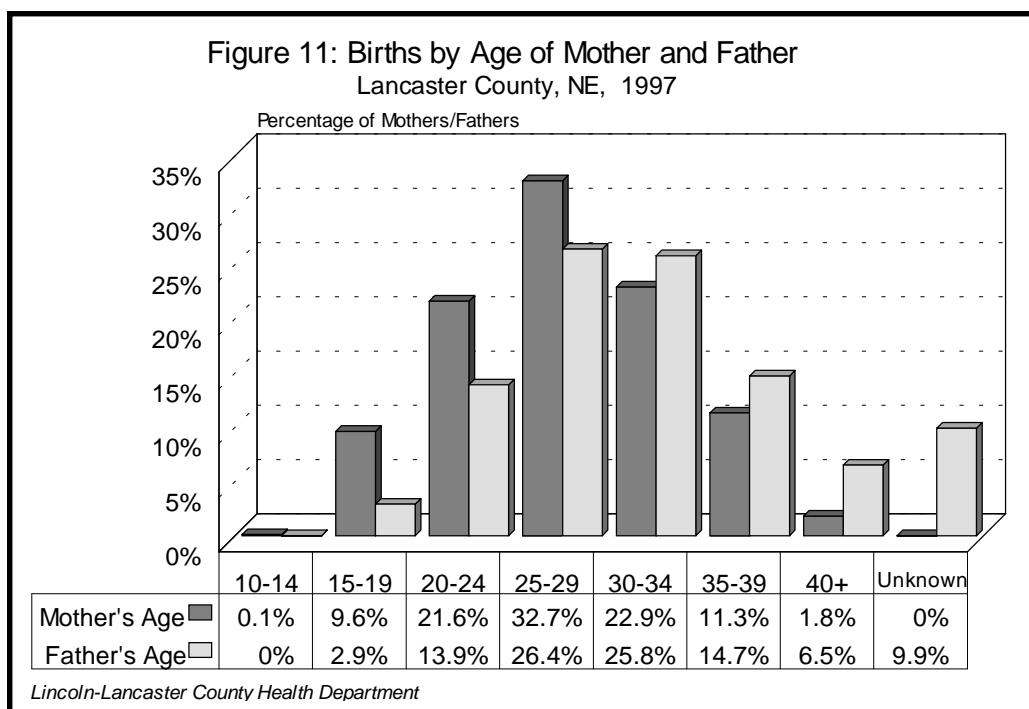


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Figure 10: Percent of Births to Women Age 25 and Over  
Lancaster County, NE, 1981 to 1997



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



## TEENAGE MOTHERS

The birth rate among females 15 to 19 years of age in 1997 was 32.8 per 1000 population. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2000 is to reduce the teenage birth rate to 20 per 1000 population. Of all births in 1997, 9.6% were to mothers under 20, while only 2.9% were to fathers under 20 (Figure 11). Fathers of infants born to teen mothers are, on average, three years older than the mother.

### Race and Ethnic Origin of Teen Mothers

The percentage of births born to mothers under 20 years old has increased for all populations but has been highest among American Indian, Black, and Hispanic populations. From 1987 to 1997, teen mothers increased from 21.7% to 29.8% of American Indian births, from 21.3%

to 24.8% of Black births, and from 9.5% to 13.2% of Latino births. During the same period, teen mothers increased from 7.3% to 8.9% of White births and from 1.7% to 4.8% of Asian births.

### Prenatal Care

Among mothers less than 20 years of age, 66.9% received care in their first trimester of pregnancy (Figure 7). This compares to 83.8% for mothers of all ages.

## NON-MARITAL BIRTHS

Overall, 23.7% of all births (763 of 3223) were to unmarried mothers. This translates into a rate of 236.7 non-marital births per 1000 live births in 1997. This is a decrease from the 1996 rate

(780 of 3293) (Figure 12). The rate of non-marital births has been steadily increasing since 1978, when 98 of every 1000 live births was to an unmarried mother.

More than five of every six births (83.9%) to mothers under 20 years of age were non-marital in 1997 (Table 12). Among all mothers, 65.8% of Black births, 56.1% of American Indian births, 33.3% of Latino births, 15.1% of Asian births, and 21.7% of White births were non-marital.

## APGAR SCORES

In 1997, the mean APGAR scores at 1 minute

and 5 minutes after birth were 7.5 and 8.7 (highest possible score = 10), respectively. APGAR scores have remained stable for over a decade. In addition, little variation in APGAR scores can be seen among males and females and among different racial/ethnic groups (Figure 13).

## ATTENDANT AT BIRTH

In recent years, a sharp increase has been noted in non-physician attended births. In 1992, 7 births were non-physician attended, rising to 48 births in 1993, 80 births in 1994, 150 births in 1995, and 207 in 1997. Of the non-physician attended births in 1997, 99.0% were hospital births and 99.0% were attended by Certified Nurse

Midwives. Two non-physician attended births (1.0%) were home births. Mothers whose births were attended by Certified Nurse Midwives were slightly less likely to receive first trimester prenatal care (80.0%) than mothers in births attended by physicians (84.1%).

## MULTIPLE BIRTHS

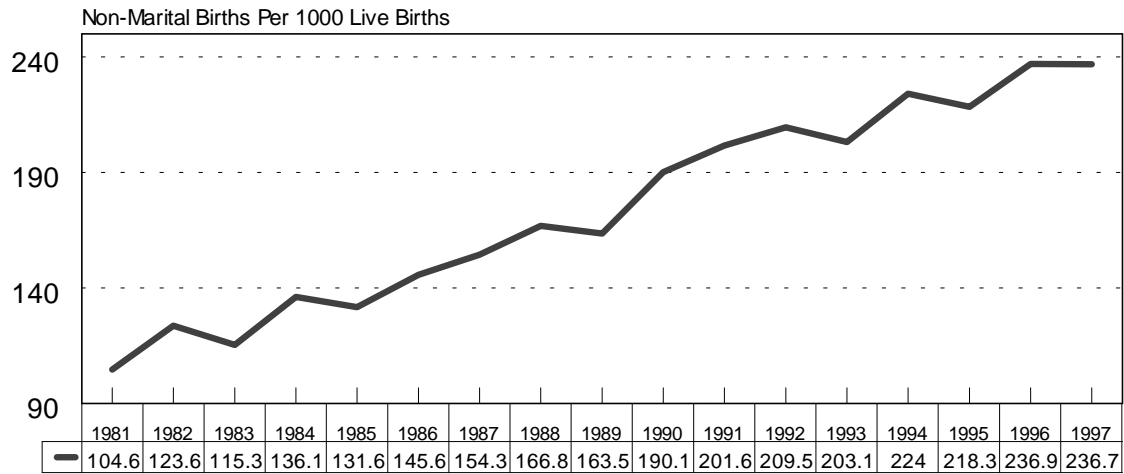
The total number of multiple births in Lancaster County was 114 (54 sets) in 1997, including 5 sets of triplets and one set of quadruplets. The number of multiple births in 1996 was also 114.

**TABLE 12.**  
**Non-Marital Births by Age of Mother**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Total Live Births</b>	<b>Freq. of Non-Marital Births</b>	<b>% of** Non-Marital By Age Group</b>	<b>% of*** Age Group Not Married</b>
Under 20	311	261	34.2	84.5
20 to 24	697	272	35.6	39.0
25 to 29	1054	124	16.3	11.8
30 and Above	1161	106	13.9	9.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3223</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23.7</b>

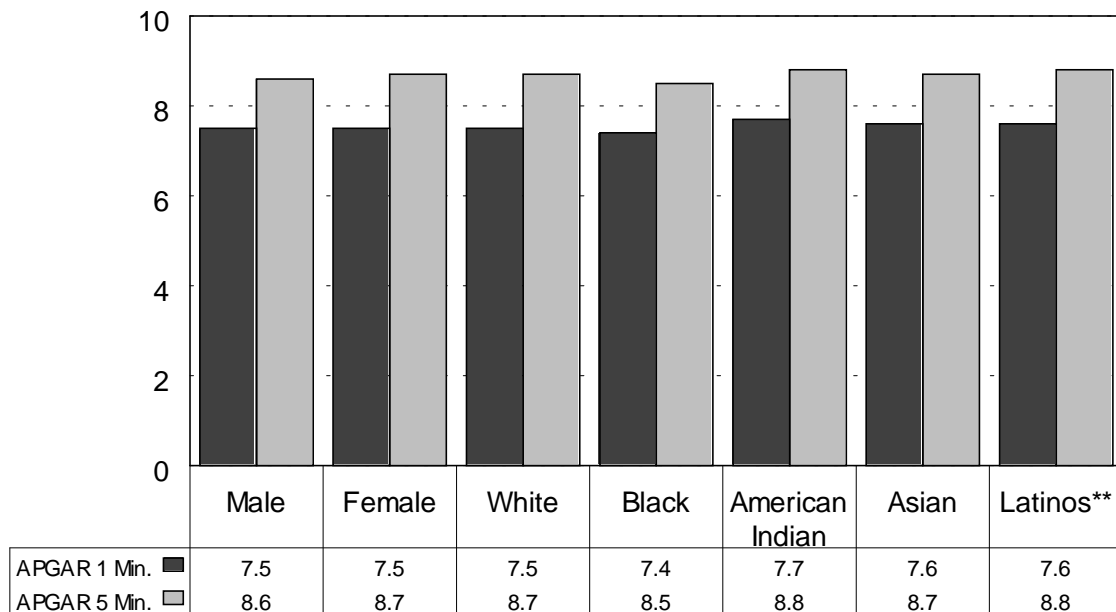
**\*\* Percentages in this column reflect non-marital births by age group.**  
**\*\*\* Percentages in this column reflect non-marital births within the respective age groups.**

**Figure 12: Non-Marital Birth Rate**  
Lancaster County, NE, 1981 to 1997



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**Figure 13: Mean APGAR Scores by Gender and Race\***  
Lancaster County, NE, 1997



\*Race of the child is determined by the race of the mother

\*\*Latinos may be of any race

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**TABLE 13. SUMMARY OF RESIDENT BIRTH STATISTICS FROM 1984 TO 1997, LANCASTER COUNTY, NE**

<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS</b>													
Lancaster County													
3196	3108	2993	3014	2968	3174	3103	3198	3069	3245	3129	3166	3293	3223
Lincoln													
2881	2826	2716	2755	2676	2907	2859	2970	2855	2985	2928	2964	3095	3017
Balance of County													
315	282	277	269	292	267	244	228	214	260	201	202	198	206
<b>SEX OF CHILD FOR TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS</b>													
Male													
50.3%	51.9%	51.1%	49.8%	50.2%	52.5%	51.2%	51.3%	51.4%	50.7%	52.0%	52.0%	50.8%	50.6%
Female													
49.7%	48.1%	48.9%	50.2%	49.8%	47.5%	48.8%	48.7%	48.6%	49.3%	48.0%	48.0%	49.2%	49.4%
<b>RACE OF CHILD</b>													
White													
91.8%	90.4%	93.6%	91.7%	90.3%	89.9%	92.0%	90.9%	89.7%	91.3%	91.9%	90.4%	90.4%	89.2%
Black													
2.8%	3.6%	2.0%	3.6%	3.9%	3.9%	4.2%	4.6%	4.6%	3.1%	3.1%	3.6%	2.9%	3.6%
Latino													
2.0%	2.6%	1.9%	2.3%	2.1%	2.7%	2.7%*	2.7%*	4.0%*	2.9%*	3.1%*	3.6%*	3.8%*	4.0%*
American Indian													
0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	1.2%	1.0%	1.9%	1.3%	1.6%	1.2%	1.1%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%
Asian													
NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	4.3%	3.9%	4.5%	5.2%	5.2%
All Others													
2.4%	2.5%	1.6%	1.6%	2.6%	2.5%	1.9%	3.2%	0.3%	0.1%	0.03%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
<b>BIRTH WEIGHT</b>													
Mean Birth Weight**													
7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.3	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.5
Low Weight Births													
Number													
195	168	149	163	150	177	177	169	141	192	176	200	228	242
Percent of Total Live Births													
6.1%	5.4%	5.0%	5.4%	5.1%	5.6%	5.7%	5.3%	4.6%	5.9%	5.6%	6.3%	6.9%	7.5%
<b>BIRTH RATE</b>													
Births per 1000 Population													
15.7	15.3	14.7	14.5	14.0	14.9	14.9	14.8	14.1	14.7	14.1	13.8	14.2	13.8
<b>FERTILITY RATE</b>													
Births per 1000 Women, age 15-44													
58.8	56.5	54.0	53.8	51.9	54.9	55.6	56.7	53.9	56.4	53.9	52.8	54.3	52.9
<b>NON-MARITAL BIRTHS</b>													
435	409	434	465	495	519	590	645	643	659	701	691	780	763
<b>NON-MARTIAL BIRTH RATE</b>													
136.1	131.6	145.0	154.3	166.8	163.5	190.1	201.6	209.5	203.1	224.0	218.3	236.9	236.7
Non-Marital Births													
per 1000 live Births.													

\*Latinos may be of any race, (1990-1997 only).

\*\*Weight expressed in pounds and ounces.

NR : Not Reported

**TABLE 13. SUMMARY OF RESIDENT BIRTH STATISTICS FROM 1984 TO 1997, LANCASTER COUNTY, NE**

<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>PRENATAL CARE</b>													
Percent with 10 or more Prenatal Visits													
55.8%	58.1%	61.7%	82.7%	84.9%	85.6%	82.0%	85.0%	83.6%	84.0%	80.2%	81.6%	83.5%	79.8%
Percent Receiving Care in 1st Trimester													
76.5%	81.0%	81.5%	84.8%	85.9%	86.6%	85.8%	85.1%	84.0%	87.2%	85.1%	86.9%	86.9%	83.8%
<b>AGE OF PARENTS</b>													
Percent of Mothers by Age													
Under 20													
8.5%	6.9%	7.6%	7.7%	7.9%	7.1%	8.4%	8.2%	8.6%	7.4%	8.9%	7.5%	9.4%	9.6%
20-24													
26.7%	25.5%	26.8%	25.2%	24.7%	22.6%	22.4%	22.6%	23.4%	22.3%	22.7%	21.5%	21.3%	21.6%
25-29													
36.3%	38.2%	35.9%	37.0%	35.4%	36.0%	34.6%	34.4%	31.9%	31.8%	29.7%	32.1%	32.9%	32.7%
30-34													
22.4%	22.7%	22.7%	22.8%	24.0%	24.7%	25.1%	24.9%	25.3%	27.9%	26.8%	26.1%	24.0%	22.9%
35-39													
5.6%	6.2%	6.7%	6.7%	7.0%	8.4%	8.1%	8.8%	8.8%	9.3%	10.3%	10.8%	10.7%	11.3%
40 and over													
0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.9%	0.8%	1.2%	1.4%	1.2%	2.0%	1.3%	1.6%	2.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Mean Age of Mother:													
Married													
27.3	27.6	27.6	27.8	27.9	28.3	28.5	28.5	28.7	28.9	29.0	29.2	29.0	29.0
Unmarried													
21.8	22.0	22.2	22.2	22.4	22.7	22.5	22.8	22.5	22.6	22.7	23.2	22.7	22.8
Total													
26.5	26.8	26.8	26.9	27.0	27.4	27.3	27.3	27.4	27.6	27.6	27.9	27.5	27.5
Mean Age of Father													
29.0	29.3	29.3	29.4	29.6	29.9	29.9	30.1	30.1	30.2	30.2	30.5	30.2	30.1
<b>MULTIPLE BIRTHS</b>													
Number of Multiple Births													
31	31	40	44	30	47	39	37	27	42	39	37	55	54
<b>APGAR SCORES</b>													
Mean 1 Minute APGAR Score													
7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.5
Mean 5 Minute APGAR Score													
8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7
<b>BIRTH DEFECTS (CONGENITAL ANOMALIES)</b>													
Number													
78	76	78	75	56	86	104	146	123	157	111	113	133	168
Percent of Total Live Births and Fetal Deaths													
2.4%	2.4%	2.6%	2.4%	1.9%	2.7%	3.4%	4.6%	4.0%	4.8%	3.5%	3.6%	4.0%	5.2%
<b>EDUCATION LEVEL OF PARENTS</b>													
Mean Years of Education of Father													
13.3	14.0	13.9	14.0	13.9	14.0	14.0	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.1	14.1
Mean Years of Education of Mother													
13.8	13.4	13.4	13.5	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.7	13.7	13.8	13.7	13.9	13.8	13.9
<b>HOSPITAL/PHYSICIAN ATTENDED BIRTHS</b>													
Number of Non-Hospital Births													
12	5	14	11	20	7	15	13	8	21	10	3	10	8
Percent of Total Live Births													
0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%
Non-Physician Attended Births:													
Number													
10	4	4	5	9	6	10	13	7	48	80	150	223	207
Percent of Total Live Births													
0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	1.5%	2.6%	4.7%	6.8%	6.4%



# **DEATH STATISTICS**



## CRUDE DEATH RATE

In 1997, the crude death rate for Lancaster County was 6.7 per 1000 population. The average crude death rate between 1981 and 1997 was 6.9 per 1000 population.

The crude death rate for the State of Nebraska during 1997 was 9.4 per 1000 population. Figure 14 illustrates the death rates for Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS

There were 1563 deaths among Lancaster County residents during 1997. Of these, 1438 (92.0%) were residents of Lincoln. The remaining 125

(8.0%) resided outside the City of Lincoln. The most frequent month for death was December followed by January (Table 14).

### Race

Of the deaths in 1997, 1504 (96.2%) were among Whites, 35 (2.2%) were among Blacks, 22 (1.4%) were among persons of other races, and 2 (0.1%) were not classifiable.

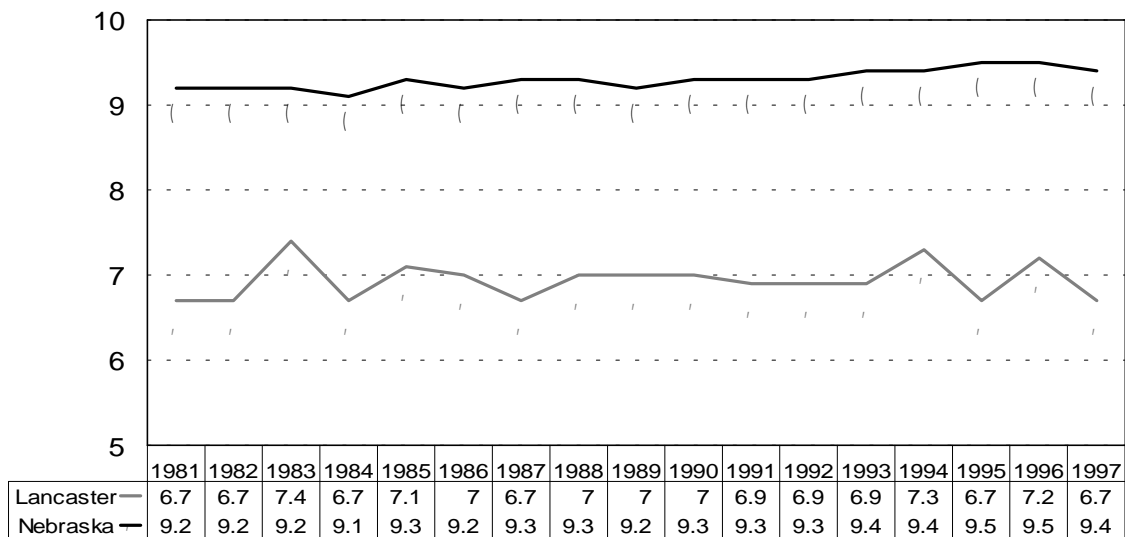
### Sex

During 1997, 46.4% of all deaths in Lancaster County were males and 53.6% were females.

### Age

In 1997, 18 infants (less than 1 year of age) died, accounting for 1.2% of all deaths and an infant

**Figure 14: Comparison of Death Rates**  
Lancaster County and Nebraska  
1981 to 1997



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mortality rate of 5.6 per 1000 live births (*See page 30 for further discussion of infant mortality*). A total of 24 children 0 to 14 died in 1997, accounting for 1.5% of all deaths. The most frequent age group among deaths was 80 to 89 years (28.8% of all deaths) followed by 70 to 79 years (24.2% of all deaths). (Table 16).

The mean age at death has increased 1.6 years during the past decade (1987-1997). In 1997, the mean age of death for males and females was 69.2 and 77.1 years, respectively (Figure 15). Males indicated an increase of 1.3 years over the past decade, while females indicated an increase of 1.7 years.

Using a five year rolling average (1993 to 1997), the mean age of death for White individuals (73.5 years) was approximately 17.8 years older than the mean age of death for individuals in other racial/ethnic categories (55.7 years).

**TABLE 14.**  
**Deaths by Month,**  
**Lancaster County 1997**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	148	9.5
February	134	8.6
March	129	8.3
April	129	8.3
May	128	8.2
June	105	6.7
July	130	8.3
August	121	7.7
September	108	6.9
October	144	9.2
November	132	8.4
December	155	9.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

In 1997, 32.8% of all deaths were due to heart disease and 22.7% were due to cancer. These two major causes of death accounted for 55.5% of all deaths (Figure 16). Table 17 details statistics on the leading causes of death in Lancaster County.

Table 15 lists the average age of death by sex by selected cause. The six leading causes of death for males and females in Lancaster County and Nebraska can be found in Table 18.

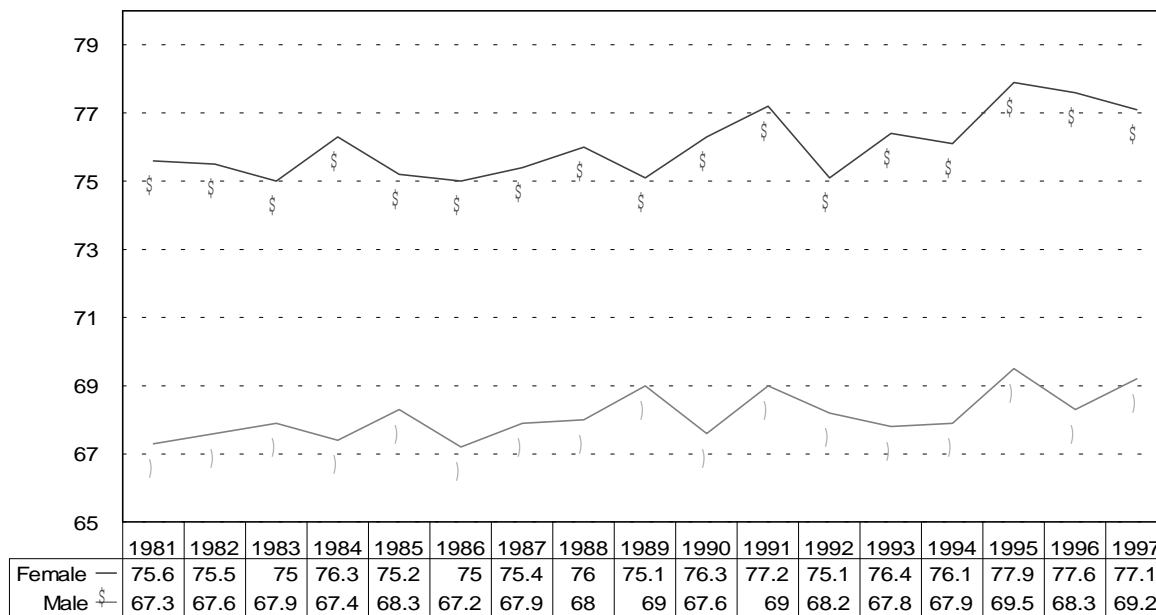
### Age and Sex

Among males 1 to 29 years of age, unintentional injury and suicide were the leading causes of death (Table 19). Heart disease and unintentional injury, respectively, were the leading causes of death among females 1-29 years of age. Cancer was the leading cause of death for males and females 30 to 59 years old. The leading cause of death for males and females 60 and older was heart disease. Causes of infant mortality are listed in Table 23.

**TABLE 15.**  
**Average Age of Death by Sex Among**  
**the Seven Leading Cause of Death**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

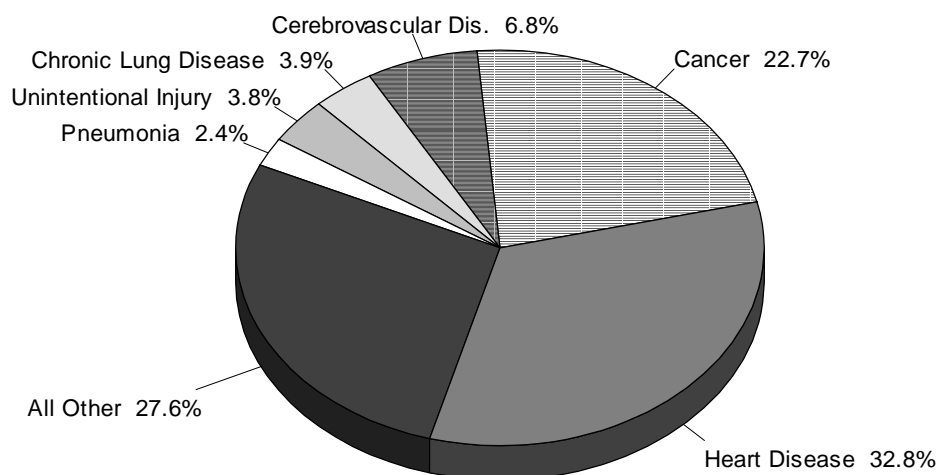
<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Heart Disease	74.4	82.1
Cancer	68.8	71.8
Cerebrovascular Disease	76.6	83.8
Chronic Lung Disease	79.2	76.5
Unintentional Injury	53.5	70.4
Pneumonia	79.5	77.7
Suicide	48.9	46.0

**Figure 15: Mean Age of Death for Males and Females**  
Lancaster County, NE  
1981-1997



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

**Figure 16: Leading Causes of Death**  
Lancaster County, NE  
1997



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

**TABLE 16.**  
**Deaths by Age and Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b><u>Age</u></b>	<b><u>Total Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>% of Total Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>Male Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>% of Male Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>Female Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>% of Female Deaths</u></b>
<1	18	1.2	13	1.8	5	0.6
1 - 4	3	0.2	2	0.3	1	0.1
5 - 9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
10 - 14	3	0.2	1	0.1	2	0.2
15 - 19	4	0.3	3	0.4	1	0.1
20 - 24	12	0.8	8	1.1	4	0.5
25 - 29	12	0.8	7	1.0	5	0.6
30 - 39	50	3.2	27	3.7	23	2.7
40 - 49	76	4.9	45	6.2	31	3.7
50 - 59	113	7.2	62	8.5	51	6.1
60 - 69	180	11.5	112	15.4	68	8.1
70 - 79	378	24.2	204	28.1	174	20.8
80 - 89	450	28.8	180	24.8	270	32.3
90 - 99	255	16.3	62	8.5	193	23.1
>100	9	0.6	0	0.0	9	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Mean Age of Death for Males 69.2 Years**  
**Mean Age of Death for Females 77.1 Years**

**TABLE 17.**  
**Causes of Death**  
**and Crude Rate per 100,000 Population**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b><u>Cause of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>% of Deaths</u></b>	<b><u>Crude Rate</u></b>
Heart Disease	513	32.8	219.9
Cancer	355	22.7	152.2
Cerebrovascular Disease	106	6.8	45.4
Chronic Lung Disease	61	3.9	26.1
Unintentional Injury	59	3.8	25.3
Pneumonia	38	2.4	16.3
Suicide	29	1.9	12.4
Mental Disorders	27	1.7	11.6
Diabetes Mellitus	25	1.6	10.7
Atherosclerosis	23	1.5	9.9
Alzheimer's Disease	19	1.2	8.1
Emphysema	14	0.9	6.0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	14	0.9	6.0
Septicemia	14	0.9	6.0
Parkinson's Disease	13	0.8	5.6
Aortic Aneurysm	11	0.7	4.7
Birth Defects	10	0.6	4.3
Cirrhosis of Liver	9	0.6	3.9
Diarrhea and Enteritis	8	0.5	3.4
Homicide	8	0.5	3.4
Asthma	7	0.4	3.0
AIDS	5	0.3	2.1
All Other Causes	<u>195</u>	<u>12.5</u>	<u>83.6</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>669.8</b>

*Population for Lancaster County = 233,319 (estimated)*

**TABLE 18.**  
**Comparison of the Six Leading Causes of Death**  
**Lancaster County vs. the State of Nebraska, 1997**

<b>LANCASTERCOUNTY</b>		<b>STATEofNEBRASKA</b>	
<b><u>Cause of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>	<b><u>Cause of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
Heart Disease	32.8%	Heart Disease	32.3%
Cancer	22.7%	Cancer	21.2%
Cerebrovascular Disease	6.8%	Cerebrovascular Disease	7.2%
Chronic Lung Disease	3.9%	Unintentional Injury	4.3%
Unintentional Injury	3.8%	Chronic Lung Disease	3.9%
Pneumonia	2.4%	Pneumonia	3.6%

### **Cancer Sites**

Cancers of the lung, trachea and bronchus were the leading causes of cancer-related death among males and females (Table 20). Lymphoid and prostate cancer were the next leading causes of cancer death in men. Breast, colon, and lymphoid cancers were the next leading causes of cancer death among women (Table 20). Cancer death rates are discussed on pages 33-34.

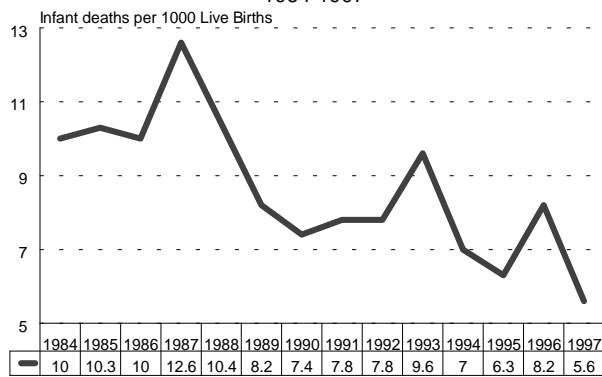
### **Suicide**

Suicides by age and method of suicide are shown in Table 21. The average age for male suicides was 48.9 years, compared to 46.0 years for females. About one-half of suicide deaths (51.7%) were among individuals 44 years of age or younger. In 1997, the crude rate for suicide was 12.4 per 100,000. This is an increase from the 1996 rate of 9.9 per 100,000, although there is considerable instability in these rates from year to year. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2000 is to reduce suicide mortality to an age-adjusted rate of 7.5 per 100,000 population.

## **INFANT MORTALITY RATE**

In 1997, 18 infant deaths occurred in Lancaster County for an infant mortality rate of 5.6 per 1000 live births (Figure 17). This represents a 2.6 per 1000 decrease from the 1996 infant mortality rate of 8.2 per 1,000 live births. The Lancaster County Health Objective for the Year 2000 is 7.0 per 1000 live births. In 1997, 72.2% of infant deaths were male and 27.8% were female.

**Figure 17: Infant Mortality Rate**  
 Lancaster County, NE  
 1984-1997



Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department



**TABLE 19.**  
**Three Leading Causes of Death by**  
**Age Group and Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<u>RANK</u>	<u>SEX</u>	<u>1 - 29</u>	<u>30 - 59</u>	<u>60 &amp; Over</u>	<u>All Ages</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Unintentional Injury*</b> <b>Suicide*</b>	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>AIDS*</b> <b>Cystic Fibrosis*</b> <b>Homicide*</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>Cancer</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>Unintentional Injury</b>	<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>Cancer</b>	<b>Cancer</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>Unintentional Injury</b>	<b>Cerebrovascular Dis.*</b> <b>Chronic Lung Dis.*</b>	<b>Cerebrovascular Disease</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>**</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Cerebrovascular Disease</b>	<b>Cerebrovascular Disease</b>

**\* Tie**

**\*\* Too few for subgroup analysis**

**TABLE 20.**  
**Cancer by Type by Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<u>Site of Cancer</u>	<u>Cases</u> <u>in</u> <u>Males</u>	<u>Cases</u> <u>in</u> <u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Lung, Trachea, Bronchus	53	37	90
Lymphoid and Histiocytic	25	20	45
Colon/Rectum	15	21	36
Female Breast	0	34	34
Prostate	22	0	22
Pancreas	6	9	15
Ovary/other uterine adnexa	0	12	12
Kidney/other urinary organs	4	6	10
Bladder	6	3	9
Skin	4	4	8
Liver	5	2	7
Brain	6	1	7
Esophagus	5	1	6
Gallbladder and Extrahepatic Bile Ducts	2	3	5
Stomach	4	1	5
All Other Sites	13	31	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>355</b>

**TABLE 21.**  
**Suicides by Type by Age Group**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Type of Suicide</b>	<b>1-14</b>	<b>15-29</b>	<b>30-44</b>	<b>45-59</b>	<b>60 &amp; Over</b>	<b>Total</b>
Firearms and Explosives	0	4	4	2	6	16
Poisoning by Solids or Liquids	0	0	2	4	0	6
Hanging and Suffocation	0	1	2	0	1	4
Poisoning by Other Gases and Vapors	0	0	1	0	1	2
Other And Unspecified Means	0	0	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>29</b>

A majority (72.2%) of all infant deaths in 1997 were White (Table 22), a rate of 4.5 per 1000 White births. Five infant deaths among other races in 1997 translated into an infant mortality rate of 14.3 per 1000 non-White births.

The leading cause of infant mortality was respiratory conditions (Table 23).

## FETAL DEATHS

Eighteen fetal deaths were reported in 1997, representing a fetal death rate of 5.6 per

1000 live births (Figure 18). This is a decrease from the 1996 fetal death rate of 6.1 per 1,000 live births, but is comparable to recent fetal death rates.

## CRUDE AND AGE-ADJUSTED RATES FOR THE THREE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

### Heart Disease

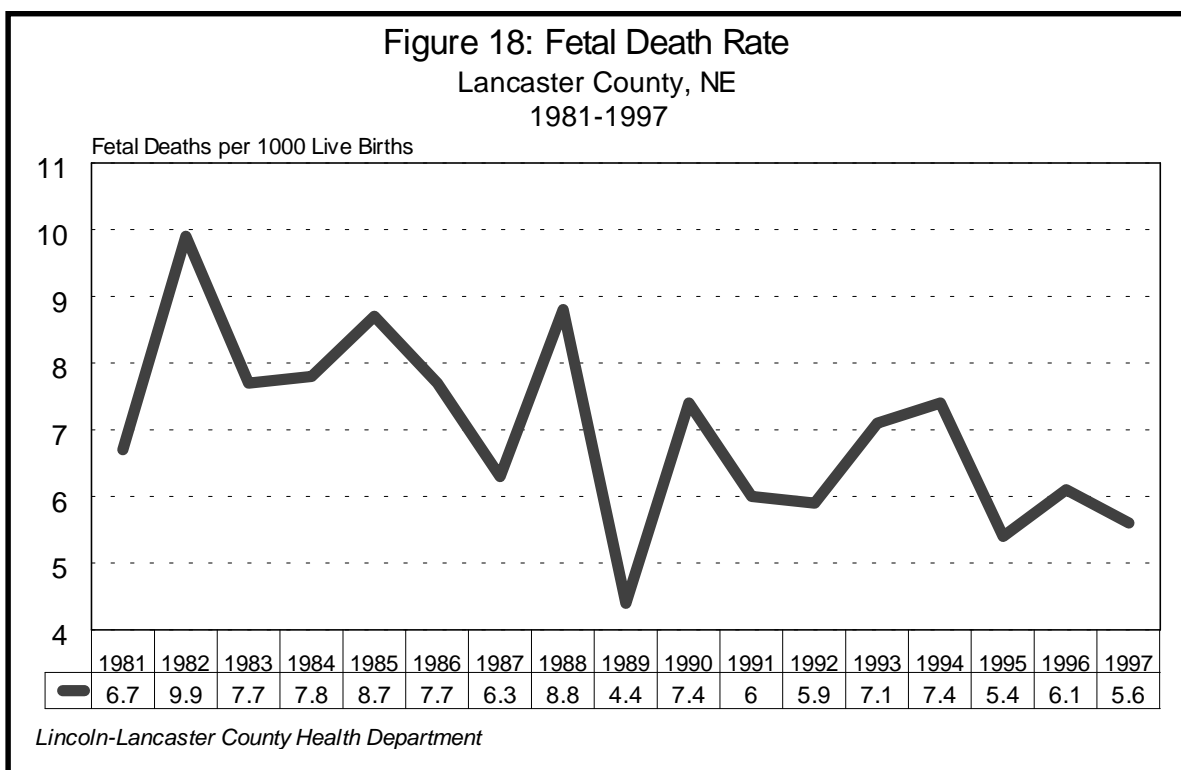
In 1997, 513 (32.8% of total deaths) Lancaster County residents died of heart disease. These 513 deaths translate into a crude death rate due to heart disease of 219.9 per 100,000 estimated population. The average crude death rate for heart disease from 1993 through

**TABLE 22.**  
**Infant Deaths by Race and Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
White	9	4	13
Black	1	1	2
All Other	3	0	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>

**TABLE 23.**  
**Infant Deaths by Cause and Sex**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Respiratory Conditions	5	0	5
Congenital Anomalies	3	1	4
Fetal/Neonatal Hemorrhage	2	1	3
Heart Conditions	1	0	1
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	1	0	1
Other	1	3	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>



1997 was 203.8 per 100,000. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services reported an average crude death rate for heart disease of 311.5 per 100,000 population for the State of Nebraska between 1993 and 1997.

The 1997 Nebraska Vital Statistics Report lists Nebraska's age-adjusted death rate for heart disease as 182.2 per 100,000 population for 1997, and 186.1 per 100,000 for 1993 through 1997. Using the same age-adjusted method, Lancaster County's age-adjusted death rates for heart disease were lower: 168.8 per 100,000 for 1997 and 155.5 per 100,000 for 1993-1997.

### **Cancer**

In 1997, 355 (22.7% of total deaths) Lancaster County residents died of cancer. These 355 deaths translate into a crude death rate due to cancer of 152.2 per 100,000 estimated population. This compares to an average crude death rate of 170.6 per 100,000 for 1993 through 1997. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services reported an average crude death rate due for cancer of 205.4 per 100,000 estimated population for the State of Nebraska between 1993 and 1997.

The 1997 Nebraska Vital Statistics Report lists Nebraska's age-adjusted death rate for cancer as 147.8 per 100,000 population for 1997, and 152.4 per 100,000 for 1993 through 1997. It cites similar rates for Lancaster County: 139.5 per 100,000 for 1997 and 156.7 per 100,000 for 1993 through 1997.

### **Cerebrovascular Disease**

In 1997, 106 (6.8% of total deaths) Lancaster County residents died of cerebrovascular disease. These 106 deaths represent a crude death rate of 45.4 per 100,000 estimated population in 1997. This compares to an average crude death rate of 50.4 for 1993 through 1997. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services reported an average crude death rate due to cerebrovascular disease of 69.6 per 100,000 estimated population for the State of Nebraska between 1993 and 1997.

The 1997 Nebraska Vital Statistics Report states that for the State of Nebraska the age-adjusted death rate for cerebrovascular disease was 37.5 per 100,000 population for 1997, and 38.7 per 100,000 for 1993 through 1997. Rates for Lancaster County were lower: 33.6 per 100,000 for 1997 and 35.8 per 100,000 for 1993 through 1997.

***\*Note: To compare death rates from different populations (Lancaster County and the State of Nebraska), age-adjusted rates should be used.***

## **DEATHS DUE TO UNINTENTIONAL INJURY**

In 1997, 59 deaths (3.8% of total deaths) occurred due to unintentional injury in Lancaster County. The average age of death for male and female residents was 53.5 and 70.4 years, respectively. Males represented 52.5% of all unintentional injury deaths, compared to 47.5% for females (Table 24). Accidental falls (40.7%) were the leading cause of deaths due to unintentional injury in 1997, followed by motor vehicle crashes (32.2%). In addition, three deaths occurred due to accidental poisoning (5.1%), while two deaths occurred due to abnormal reaction or complication causes by surgical and medical procedures (3.4%).

**TABLE 24.**  
**Unintentional Injury Death by Principal Cause**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Principal Cause</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Accidental Falls	24
Motor Vehicle Crashes	19
Accidental Poisoning by Drugs	3
Abnormal reaction or complication causes by surgical and medical procedures	2
Other Injury	11
<b>Total Unintentional Injury Death</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Average Age:</b>	<b>Male = 53.5</b> <b>Female = 70.4</b>
<b>Sex:</b>	<b>Males = 31 (52.5%)</b> <b>Female = 28 (47.5%)</b>

## DISPOSITION AND PLACE OF DEATH

The most frequent disposition of a body was burial (71.5%), followed by cremation (25.5%) (Table 25). The most frequent place of death was in a nursing home (37.8%), followed by a hospital or medical center-inpatient (29.0%) (Table 26).

**TABLE 25.**  
**Disposition of Body**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b><u>Disposition</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
Burial	1118	71.5%
Cremation	399	25.5%
Removal	35	2.2%
Donation	11	0.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 26.**  
**Place of Death**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b><u>Place of Death</u></b>	<b><u>Frequency</u></b>	<b><u>Percent</u></b>
Nursing Home	591	37.8%
Hospital or Medical Center - Inpatient	454	29.0%
Residence	347	22.2%
Hospital or Medical Center - Outpatient/ER	110	7.0%
Dead on Arrival at Hospital or Medical Center	2	0.1%
Other Facilities	59	3.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1563</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 27. SUMMARY OF RESIDENT DEATH STATISTICS FROM 1984 TO 1997, LANCASTER COUNTY, NE**

<b>1984</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>1988</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>NUMBER OF DEATHS</b>													
Lancaster County													
1365	1432	1418	1399	1487	1508	1500	1494	1494	1512	1617	1537	1675	1563
Lincoln													
1243	1331	1302	1274	1387	1394	1371	1370	1339	1410	1483	1409	1558	1438
Balance of County													
122	101	116	125	100	114	129	124	155	102	134	128	117	125
<b>RACE</b>													
White													
98.2%	97.4%	97.3%	97.5%	97.9%	97.9%	97.9%	98.2%	97.6%	97.4%	97.8%	97.7%	96.2%	96.2%
Black													
1.4%	1.7%	1.6%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%	1.3%	1.6%	1.8%	1.5%	1.4%	2.4%	2.2%
Other													
0.4%	0.8%	0.8%	1.3%	0.8%	1.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	0.9%	1.4%	1.5%
<b>SEX</b>													
Male													
48.8%	50.0%	49.5%	48.9%	50.4%	50.1%	47.8%	45.5%	49.6%	48.3%	47.8%	47.5%	48.4%	46.4%
Female													
51.2%	50.0%	50.5%	51.1%	49.6%	49.9%	52.2%	54.5%	50.4%	51.7%	52.2%	52.5%	51.6%	53.6%
<b>AGE</b>													
Under 1													
2.3%	2.2%	2.1%	2.7%	2.1%	1.7%	1.5%	1.7%	1.6%	2.1%	1.4%	1.3%	1.6%	1.2%
1-14													
0.7%	0.6%	0.8%	1.3%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	0.5%	0.9%	0.3%	0.7%	0.4%
15-29													
2.4%	2.8%	3.1%	2.4%	2.2%	3.2%	2.5%	1.2%	2.8%	2.4%	2.0%	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%
30-44													
2.8%	2.9%	3.7%	2.9%	3.9%	3.1%	4.6%	4.5%	5.2%	4.8%	6.1%	4.6%	4.4%	5.5%
45-59													
9.6%	8.3%	9.3%	8.4%	9.1%	8.4%	8.4%	7.9%	7.9%	9.5%	8.8%	7.3%	9.6%	9.7%
60 & Over													
82.1%	83.0%	81.0%	82.3%	82.3%	83.0%	81.9%	83.9%	81.6%	80.8%	80.8%	84.4%	81.6%	81.4%
<b>AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH</b>													
Male													
67.4	68.3	67.2	67.9	68.0	69.0	67.6	69.0	68.2	67.8	67.9	69.5	68.3	69.2
Female													
76.3	75.2	75.0	75.4	76.0	75.1	76.3	77.2	75.1	76.4	76.1	77.9	77.6	77.1
Total													
71.9	71.7	71.2	71.8	72.0	72.0	72.1	73.5	71.7	72.2	72.1	73.9	73.1	73.4
<b>DEATH RATE</b>													
Deaths per 1000 Population													
6.7	7.1	7.0	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.3	6.7	7.2	6.7
<b>INFANT DEATHS</b>													
32	32	30	38	31	26	23	25	24	31	22	20	27	18
<b>INFANT MORTALITY RATE</b>													
10.0	10.3	10.0	12.6	10.4	8.2	7.4	7.8	7.8	9.6	7.0	6.3	8.2	5.6
Deaths per 1000 Live Births													
<b>NEONATAL DEATHS</b>													
19	23	22	22	16	16	13	13	10	19	16	17	17	13
<b>NEONATAL DEATH RATE</b>													
5.9	7.4	7.4	6.0	5.4	5.0	7.4	4.1	3.3	5.9	5.1	5.4	5.2	4.0
<b>FETAL DEATHS</b>													
25	27	23	19	26	14	23	19	18	23	23	17	20	18
<b>FETAL DEATH RATE</b>													
7.8	8.7	7.7	6.3	8.8	4.4	7.4	6.0	5.9	7.1	7.4	5.4	6.1	5.6

# **MARRIAGE & DIVORCE STATISTICS**





## MARRIAGE RATE

There were 1807 marriages in Lancaster County in 1997. This translates into a rate of 7.7 per 1000 population. The Nebraska rate was 7.6 per 1000 in 1997. The marriage rates for Nebraska and Lancaster County have remained relatively stable for the past five years (Figure 19).

As in 1996, the most common months of marriage in 1997 were August, June, and May, respectively (Table 28).

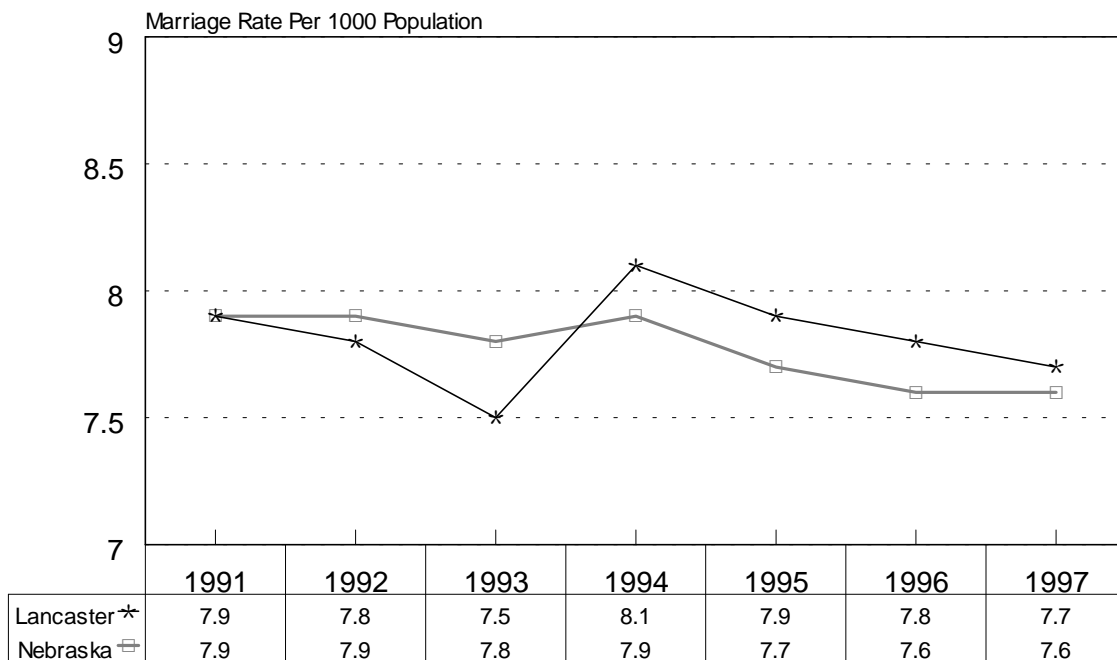
## AGE AND RACE

In 1997, 1649 (91.3%) of grooms and 1678 (92.9%) of brides were White. The remaining 158 grooms and 129 brides were of other races (Table 29). In 1997, the mean (average) age for Lancaster

**TABLE 28.**  
**Marriages by Month**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Percent</u>
January	80	4.4
February	105	5.8
March	93	5.1
April	112	6.2
May	214	11.8
June	215	11.9
July	180	10.0
August	242	13.4
September	187	10.3
October	166	9.2
November	121	6.7
December	92	5.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 19: Comparison of Marriage Rates**  
**Lancaster County and Nebraska**  
**1991 to 1997**



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County grooms was 31.1 years. The mean age for brides was 29.2 years.

The mean marriage age of White males and females, regardless of the number of marriages, was 31.1 and 29.3 years, respectively. The mean age for Black males and females was 31.3 and 30.6 years, respectively. The mean marriage age for American Indian males and females was 35.7 and 26.1, respectively. The mean marriage age was 28.4 for Asian males and 27.2 for Asian females.

**TABLE 29**  
**Marriage by Sex and Race**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

	<u>Males</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>White</b>	1649	91.3	1678	92.9
<b>Black</b>	92	5.1	47	2.6
<b>Am. Indian</b>	13	0.7	12	0.7
<b>Asian</b>	51	2.8	67	3.7
<b>Other</b>	2	0.1	3	0.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 30**  
**Marriage/Divorce Ratio**  
**Race of Male**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

	<u>Number of</u> <u>Marriages/Divorces</u>	<u>Ratio</u>
<b>White</b>	1649/866	1.9/1
<b>Black</b>	92/33	2.8/1
<b>Am Indian</b>	13/8	1.6/1
<b>Asian</b>	51/16	3.2/1
<b>Other</b>	2/19	0.1/1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1807/942</b>	<b>1.9/1</b>

## EDUCATION

Grooms and brides had a mean education of 14.2 years or two years of education beyond high school. The most frequent educational level was equivalent to a high school education (12 years).

## DIVORCE RATE

The 1997 marriage/divorce ratio in Lancaster County was 1.9/1 (Table 30), indicating that there were 1.9 times as many marriages as divorces.

There were 942 divorces in Lancaster County in 1997. This represents a divorce rate of 4.0 per 1,000 population, a rate similar to those of the previous decade (Figure 20). The 1997 divorce rate for Nebraska was 3.8 per 1000 population.

Among all divorced males in 1997, 69.1% were divorced for the first time. Among females, 63.8% were divorced for the first time (Table 31).

## AGE AND RACE

The average age of divorced males was 38.3 years and the average age of divorced females was 36.2 years. The median age of divorced males was 37.0 years, while the median age of divorced females was 35.0 years. The average age of first time divorced males and females was 35.7 and 33.5 years, respectively.

In 1997, 93.8% of divorces involved White males and 95.2% of divorces involved White females.

Marriage/divorce ratios ranged from 1.6/1 for American Indians to 3.2/1 for Asians (Table 30).

## SETTLEMENT

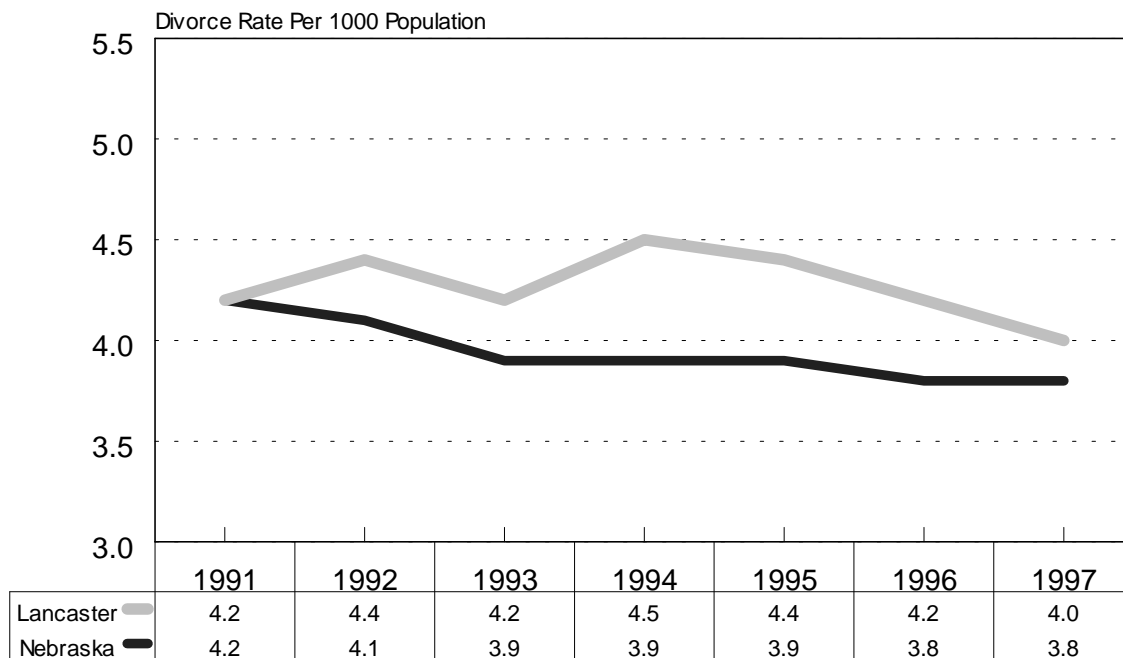
In 1997, divorce settlements ranged from no settlement to alimony, child support, property, or a combination of settlements. Table 32 lists the types and frequencies of divorce settlements.

As seen in Table 32, 132 divorces (14.0%) resulted in no type of settlement. The most frequent settlements were those involving property (35.4%) and child support/property (29.7%).

**TABLE 31.**  
**Number of Times Married At Time Of Divorce**  
**Males and Females**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

<b>Times</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1		651	69.1	601	63.8
2		206	21.9	227	24.1
3		47	5.0	64	6.8
4		9	1.0	16	1.7
5		1	0.1	5	0.5
6 or More		2	0.2	3	0.3
Not					
Classifiable		26	2.8	26	2.8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>942</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 20: Comparison of Divorce Rates**  
**Lancaster County and Nebraska**  
**1991 to 1997**



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## **CHILDREN OF DIVORCE & CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS**

Of the 942 divorces in 1997, 484 (51.4%) involved children under the age of 18. These divorces involved 886 children (0.9 children per divorce).

Among the 484 divorce settlements involving children during 1997, the divorced woman was awarded custody of all or some children in 76.4% (408) of the cases. Divorced men were awarded custody of some or all children in 15.7% (76) of divorce.

In 10.5% (51) of divorces, joint custody was awarded for some of all of the children. In 1.4% (7) of divorces, some or all children were awarded to a party other than the divorced man or woman.

**TABLE 32.**  
**Types of Settlements**  
**Lancaster County, 1997**

	<u><b>Frequency</b></u>	<u><b>Percentage</b></u>
None	132	14.0
Alimony Only	16	1.7
Child Support Only	99	10.5
Property Settlement Only	333	35.4
Alimony and Child Support	11	1.2
Alimony and Property Settlement	29	3.1
Child Support and Property Settlement	280	29.7
Alimony, Child Support, & Property	42	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## DEFINITIONS

### ***BIRTHS***

**APGAR SCORE** - A system of scoring (10 is the best and 0 is the worst) the physical condition of an infant one minute and five minutes after birth. The conditions tested include the heart rate, respiration, muscle tone, response to stimuli, and color.

**BIRTH ORDER** - The number of live born children, including the current birth.

**BIRTH RATE** - The number of live births per 1,000 population.

**FERTILITY RATE** - The number of births per 1,000 women, age 15 to 44 years.

**LENGTH OF PREGNANCY** - The duration of gestation, in completed weeks, as calculated from the first day of the last normal menses to the date of birth.

**LIVE BIRTH** - The complete expulsion or extraction of a product of conception from its mother, irrespective of the period of gestation, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached and is reportable.

**LOW-WEIGHT BIRTH** - A live born infant weighing 5 1/2 pounds or less.

**NON-MARITAL BIRTH RATE** - The number of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births.

### ***DEATHS***

**AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATE** - A weighted averaging of a crude death rate according to a standard age distribution. An age-adjusted death rate represents what the crude death rate would be if the population for which the rate is adjusted and the standard population had the same age distribution. This procedure allows for the comparison of death rates among populations having different age distributions. The death rates in this report have been adjusted according to the age distribution of the U.S. population in 1990.

**CRUDE DEATH RATE** - The number of deaths from all causes per 1,000 population.

**FETAL DEATH** - Death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction of a product of conception from its mother, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy. Until the pregnancy has reached 20 weeks duration, it is not required that such a death be reported.

**FETAL DEATH RATE** - The number of fetal deaths per 1,000 live births.

**INFANT DEATH** - Death of a person under one year of age.

**MATERNAL DEATH** - Death attributable to delivery or the complications of pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium.

**MATERNAL DEATH RATE** - The number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

**NEONATAL DEATH** - Death of a person under 28 days of age.

**OCCURRENCE** - The location in which an event takes place irrespective of the usual residence of persons involved.

**RESIDENCE** - A person's usual place of abode. This means, in general, the place where one lives and sleeps most of the time. However, when usual residence is in a nursing home or other institution, residence is considered the place where the person lived prior to admission to the institution.